UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION
INFORMATION BRANCH
30 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco 2, California

In cooperation with the
Federal-State Market News Service

WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ended Nov. 5, 1948)

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 2--- Grapes remain on top of the list as the week's Best Buy in fruits.

Fair Buys this week include strawberries, Casaba melons, cranberries, small oranges, Comice and D'Anjou pears, persimmons, and apples.

Lemons are slightly lower priced but still high, as are large oranges. New-crop grapefruit should be coming to market soon.

Vegetables taking top ranking as Best Buys are carrots, cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce, peppers, potatoes, onions, and tomatoes.

Celery and corn are tagged as Fairly Good Buys.

Among the Fair Buys will be found artichokes, snap beans, cucumbers, eggplant, sweetpotatoes, and squash.

M O R E

Trading in the San Francisco wholesale meat market has continued on a fair to slow basis due partly to uncertainties in demand resulting from the shipping strike. Recent lower prices on beef resulted in some improvement in demand for the week's lighter slaughter. Not all coolers had beef of top-Good grade. Beef carcasses have held unchanged in price from last Tuesday, but prices on cuts have dropped $2.00 to $3.00 per hundredweight -- including Good grade hindquarters, rounds and untrimmed loins. Most of the veal offered has consisted of Commercial to Choice grades at unchanged prices. All four grades of lamb (Choice, Good, Commercial & Utility) have been available at prices $1.00 per hundredweight higher. Fresh pork has been in fair demand at unchanged prices. And prices have held unchanged on all cured cuts.

On butter, both prices and production have continued on the downgrade. Grade A(92 Score) is 4 to 5 cents lower than last Tuesday at 60 cents per pound. Grade B(90 Score) is down 2½ cents at 59 cents per pound. Lower prices have resulted in an improvement in demand. For the week ended Oct. 23, San Francisco retail sales were 4.64 percent larger than for the previous week. Offerings have continued fairly liberal.

A stronger demand for lighter supplies of eggs has upped prices 1 to 2 cents. Grade "A" Large eggs are 1-cent higher at 69 to 69½ cents per dozen, as are Grade "A" Mediums at 66 to 66½ cents. Grade "A" Smalls are up 2 cents at 53 to 53½ cents per dozen. And Grade "B" Large eggs are 2 cents higher at 55 to 55½ cents per dozen.

In the poultry market, liberal supplies of young chickens have held unchanged in price, while all weights of Leghorn hens in lighter supply have advanced 2 to 3 cents per pound on both live and dressed weights. Dressed young hen turkeys are also 2 to 3 cents per pound higher, and young tom turkeys are 1-cent higher. All other classes have held unchanged in price under a fairly active demand.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ended Nov. 12, 1948)

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 9--- Still again this week Grapes remain on top of the list as the week's Best Buy in fruits.

Fair Buys include apples, cranberries, small oranges, persimmons, and pears (Comice, d'Anjou, Winter Nelis).

In Moderate Supply are large oranges, but they are higher.

In Limited Supply are lemons, especially large ones, and grapefruit (between seasons).

Vegetable Best Buys this week are carrots, cabbage, cauliflower, cucumbers, onions, peppers, and tomatoes.

In Moderate Supply are artichokes, green beans, celery, corn, eggplant, lettuce, potatoes, squash, and sweet potatoes.

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MORE

There has not been much change in the San Francisco wholesale meat market this past week. Trading has continued quiet, with demand only fair because of prevailing strike conditions. Despite the fact that slaughter has been light, supplies have accumulated. While prices have been somewhat erratic, there haven't been any startling changes. In some instances, Commercial to Good steer and heifer beef carcasses have sold $1.00 lower per hundredweight, and some Canner to Commercial cow beef has sold $1.00 higher. Top grades of beef, veal, and lamb have been somewhat limited, with Good grade dominating the supply in all three cases. There has been very little demand for fresh pork selling on a widespread of prices. Smoked hams have gone up slightly in price, while refined lard packed in 1-pound cartons has dropped 50 cents per hundredweight.

Butter prices have taken an upturn since last week. Grade A(92 Score) is 7 cents higher at 67 cents per pound, wholesale, and Grade B(90 Score) is 2 cents higher at 61 cents per pound. Production continues on the downgrade, with production in the west 9 percent smaller than last year for the week ended Nov. 4. However, supplies are ample for the present demand. San Francisco's retail sales are also running behind last year, and were 3.47 percent less for the week ended Oct. 30.

There are no startling changes to report about eggs. Large Grade "A" eggs are 1-cent higher than last week at 70 to 70½ cents per dozen, and Grade "B" Large eggs are 3 cents higher at 58 to 58½ cents per dozen. Grade "A" Mediums and Smalls are unchanged in price. Supplies of Large Grade "AA" eggs have been larger, while supplies of all other grades and sizes have remained in about the same volume as last week and are ample for the fairly good demand.

In the poultry market, a moderate demand for liberal offerings has resulted in lower prices on all young chickens and Leghorn hens. Broilers, fryers, and roasters are 1 to 3 cents per pound lower, while Leghorn hens are 2 to 3 cents lower. Colored hens have not been in such heavy supply and are up 1-cent on live weights. Ducks are also 1-cent higher. All other classes are unchanged in price from last week.

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(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ended Nov. 19, 1948)

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 16--- Grapes still hold top place as the Best Buy in fruits.

Some Texas and Arizona grapefruit is now coming to market to make grapefruit a Fair Buy this week, along with cranberries, pears, persimmons, and small oranges (slightly higher).

Lemons are higher this week -- especially the large sizes.

Among the vegetables, carrots, onions and tomatoes are the outstanding buys, followed by cabbage, cauliflower, and potatoes as the other Good Buys.

In the Fair Buy line-up are: celery, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, lettuce (slightly higher), peppers, sweetpotatoes, and squash.

MORE

The wholesale meat market was more active this past week. The total supply of beef was as large as at any time during a number of recent months. In addition, there were about 200 head of Choice and Prime beef from the recent Grand National Livestock show. Steer and heifer beef held about unchanged in price, while cow beef sold at prices unchanged to slightly higher. Most of the supply was of Commercial to Good grades. Good and Choice grades of veal and lamb have held unchanged in price, with lamb in somewhat better demand. Recent lower prices on live hogs have been reflected in the wholesale prices of pork -- both fresh and smoked cuts. Generally, prices were erratically $2.00 per hundredweight lower this past week, with price spreads of as much as $8.00 down on No. 2 grades. And refined lard packed in one-pound cartons has dropped $1.50 per hundredweight.

Butter prices have continued their upward trend. Grade "B" butter has been in more active demand and has gone up 5 cents since last Tuesday, while Grade "A" butter is only 1-cent higher. Wholesale quotations are: Grade A(92 Score) 68 cents per pound, Grade B(90 Score) 66 cents. Production is still on the downgrade and is approaching the seasonal low point.

A more active demand for fresh eggs has upped the price of large sizes. Grade "A" Large are 2 cents higher at 72 to 72½ cents per dozen, as are Grade "B" Large at 60 to 60½ cents. Grade "A" Mediums and Smalls are unchanged. There has been no gain in production.

There hasn't been much change in the poultry market. Broilers, fryers and roasters have continued in liberal supply, while hens have been in light supply. Broilers are down 1-cent per pound on both live and dressed weights. Colored roasters have gained 1-cent on live weights as the result of an anticipated better demand for the holidays. Turkeys have continued in good demand -- especially the small sizes. And prices have advanced 2 cents on young hens and 1-cent on young toms on both live and dressed weights. Supplies are expected to be fully ample for the holiday.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ended Nov. 26, 1948)

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 23--- This week, there are no so-called "Best Buys" in the fruit department. But there are a number of Fair Buys, including apples, grapes, grapefruit (with supplies coming in from Arizona and the Imperial Valley), pears, and persimmons.

Avocados are more plentiful and a little lower priced, but still are among the rather expensive items. Lemons are higher -- especially the large sizes. Oranges are still high, but the new-crop Navels are beginning to appear in the market. And tangerines are beginning to come in from Southern California.

Among the vegetables, prices have been on an upward trend as the home-grown season is about over. This is a natural trend for this season of the year. However, carrots, cabbage, potatoes and tomatoes still rate as "Best Buys," followed by cauliflower and celery as Fairly Good Buys.

In the Fair Buy line-up this week are lettuce, onions (slightly higher), peppers (slightly higher), and sweetpotatoes.

MORE

In the San Francisco wholesale meat market, fresh pork carcasses and cuts have held the spotlight as far as demand is concerned. And for two reasons -- cooler weather and lower prices. Practically all fresh pork cuts are $1.00 to $2.00 lower than last week. No. 1 sliced layer bacon is also down $2.00 per hundredweight. Supplies of beef, veal, lamb and mutton have been in fair demand at mostly unchanged prices. Quality on beef has been ranging from Commercial to Good, with Commercial grade plentiful. Veal and lamb have been mostly of Good and Choice grades.

There has been little change in the wholesale butter market. Prices are practically the same, with Grade A(92 Score) quoted at 66 to 67 cents per pound, and Grade B(90 Score) at 66 cents. Offerings are liberal enough to satisfy the good pre-holiday demand.

Eggs have continued in good demand, with prices advancing 1-cent on Grade "A" Mediums, 2 cents on Grade "A" Smalls, and 2 cents on Grade "B" Large. Supplies are moderate and generally adequate for needs. Quotations are: Grade "A" Large 72 to 72½ cents per dozen, Mediums 67 to 67½ cents, Smalls 55 to 55½ cents, and Grade "B" Large 62 to 62½ cents per dozen.

In the poultry market, a good pre-Thanksgiving demand for practically all classes of poultry has upped prices 1 to 2 cents. Colored fryers are 1-cent higher, colored roasters are 1½ to 2 cents higher, heavy Leghorn hens are up 1 cent, and both young hen and tom turkeys are 1-cent higher than last week. Rabbits are also 1 to 2 cents higher. Broilers are an exception and are down 1-cent. Supplies are fairly liberal and adequate for all needs.

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